



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 09/247,974      | 02/11/99    | YING                 | T TS98-518          |

STEPHEN B ACKERMAN  
20 MCINTOSH DRIVE  
POUGHKEEPSIE NY 12603

IM22/1113

EXAMINER

TRAN, B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1765

DATE MAILED:

11/13/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

**Advisory Action**

Application No.

09/247,974

Applicant(s)

Ying et al.

Examiner

Binh Tran

Group Art Unit

1765



## THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE: [check only a) or b)]

- a) ☐ expires \_\_\_\_\_ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☒ expires either three months from the mailing date of the final rejection, or on the mailing date of this Advisory Action, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for the response expire later than six months from the date of the final rejection.

Any extension of time must be obtained by filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a), the proposed response and the appropriate fee. The date on which the response, the petition, and the fee have been filed is the date of the response and also the date for the purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. Any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17 will be calculated from the date of the originally set shortened statutory period for response or as set forth in b) above.

- ☐ Appellant's Brief is due two months from the date of the Notice of Appeal filed on \_\_\_\_\_ (or within any period for response set forth above, whichever is later). See 37 CFR 1.191(d) and 37 CFR 1.192(a).

Applicant's response to the final rejection, filed on Jun 27, 2000 has been considered with the following effect, but is NOT deemed to place the application in condition for allowance:

☒ The proposed amendment(s):

- ☒ will be entered upon filing of a Notice of Appeal and an Appeal Brief.
- ☐ will not be entered because:
- ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. (See note below).
  - ☐ they raise the issue of new matter. (See note below).
  - ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal.
  - ☐ they present additional claims without cancelling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Applicant's response has overcome the following rejection(s):112 Rejection applied to claim 3, 18.

- ☐ Newly proposed or amended claims \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment cancelling the non-allowable claims.

☒ The affidavit, exhibit or request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:See attachment.

- ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.

☒ For purposes of Appeal, the status of the claims is as follows (see attached written explanation, if any):

Claims allowed: \_\_\_\_\_

Claims objected to: \_\_\_\_\_

Claims rejected: 1-26

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ has ☐ has not been approved by the Examiner.
- ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other

Art Unit: 1765

### DETAILED ACTION

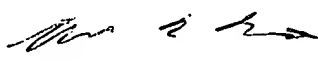
The examiner still maintains that the phrase "said interconnect lines are separated by holes having bottoms between said interconnect lines" is vague. The applicant argues that the "interconnect lines" terminology use by Applicant refers to a plurality of interconnect lines therefore a plurality of interconnect lines can and must be separated by holes so that the interconnect lines can indeed function as interconnect lines. The examiner disagrees with Applicant. The examiner recognizes that the Applicant refers to a plurality of interconnection lines. However each of the interconnection lines (in a plurality of interconnection lines) must be a continuous mark to define a shape, whether each hole is a non-continuous cavity or opening. It is unclear how a plurality of continuous marks can be separated by non-continuous openings. A plurality of interconnection lines certainly can be separated one from the other by other mean, but not by the holes.

### Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh X. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-1867. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin Utech can be reached on (703) 308-3836.

Binh X. Tran

November 13, 2000

  
BENJAMIN L. UTECH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700